



# Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly  
Assessment Newsletter  
April 2003

## Assessment for Learning

### MontCAS, Phase 1, The Iowa Tests

#### Thank You Test Coordinators

For sending answer documents to Riverside on time. Riverside reports that most answer documents were in on time and are being scored. Many districts have already received their results.

Please remember to check test results within ten days of receipt. Use the report verification form provided by Riverside to contact Riverside with questions.

#### Video Conference on Iowa Test Results: Reading the Reports

- May 13, 10:00 am - noon
- **A Kalispell site has been added.**
- Click here to see a list of sites, download materials needed at the conference, and register online.
- A video tape of the conference will be available after May 15. Contact Raelen Williard via e-mail at [rwilliard@state.mt.us](mailto:rwilliard@state.mt.us) or call her at (406) 444-2082.
- A "video on demand" version will be available online after May 15 on the assessment web page: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/index.html>.
- This conference is intended for educators who would like a review of the report formats or who have not attended a conference on test results.



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent  
Office of Public Instruction  
PO Box 202501  
Helena, MT 59620-2501  
[www.opi.state.mt.us](http://www.opi.state.mt.us)

#### To Report Alternate Assessment Scores to Parents

- Click here to download and print Sample Report to Parents.
- Click here for conversion chart from raw score to proficiency levels.

#### 2003 Iowa Test Data Online

The Office of Public Instruction will place disaggregated data online for all schools and districts. Before the data is made public, district and school personnel will have time to review the data on a secure site. To access that secure site, districts and schools will need a user name and password. These user names and passwords will be provided to schools in July. Before summer vacation, please determine who will review the data. Below are the tentative dates for data review. More details will be available in the May and June JUMP newsletters.

##### July 15 - 25

- Districts/schools review data on secure site
- Districts/schools contact OPI with questions

##### August 7 - 15

- Data on public site

#### Tentative Testing Window for the 2004 Iowa Tests:

March 8-26, 2004

## MontCAS, Phase 2, The Criterion-Referenced Test

### Schools Participate in the Montana Item Pilot

The pilot test of Montana items for the criterion-referenced test developed by the Office of Public Instruction and Measured Progress began April 14. Below are questions and answers about the materials. Thank you to test coordinators for asking.

Where in the mailing/stack sequence should the test administration certificate go?	The Test Administrator Certification Form should go last in the packing sequence for returning materials to Measured Progress.
We received the materials in four boxes. Do we need to return them in four boxes also?	No. You only need to return as many boxes as it takes to fit the necessary materials. Any unused labels should be returned in one of the boxes.
We can't find the bar code list.	There isn't one. Measured Progress decided against using one because it would have created extra work for test coordinators. This decision was made after the manuals were printed
Where is the secure materials list?	The Secure Materials List is the bar code list, so please disregard directions for it.
Do absent students need to be tested?	No. We do not need 100 percent participation for the pilot test.
What do we do with unused answer sheets?	Return them with the unused test booklets.
If a test administrator tests more than one grade, does she/he need to fill out a Test Administrator Questionnaire for each grade tested?	The Test Administrator Questionnaire is filled out on a voluntary basis and only needs to be filled out once, unless it's a different content area where there is a special concern.

## Professional Development Opportunities

- Currently, *The Teacher as Assessor* workshops are being conducted across the state the week of April 28. Participants registered online. Part of the online registration was printing the page "Registration Successful." This page is the workshop confirmation. If you did not print that page, call Nancy Hall at Measured Progress. Her number is (888) 792-2741.
- In October, Measured Progress and the Office of Public Instruction will present workshops on student work. *Examining Student Work*, will give Montana teachers an opportunity to work with a process for evaluating student work using rubrics and benchmark exemplars; to identify the content, concepts, and skills that students do and do not use with their work; and to engage in professional discussion, which leads to the identification of instructional implications.
  - Workshop dates and sites
    - ✓ October 7 - Missoula and Billings
    - ✓ October 8 - Butte
    - ✓ October 9 - Great Falls and Glendive
  - A continental breakfast, lunch, mileage and substitute reimbursement, and renewal credits will be available.
  - More details will be provided closer to the dates.

## Limited English Proficiency Test— Recruiting Educators for Item Writing

Contributed by Lynn Hinch,  
OPI Bilingual Specialist

Montana is a member of the Mountain West Assessment consortium. This group of western states, along with Measured Progress, Inc., has received a \$1.9 million grant to develop an assessment of English language proficiency to be administered to limited English proficient students. In accordance with No Child Left Behind, the grant will provide for a statewide assessment of limited English proficient students in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension to be administered annually to all LEP students. In order to reflect coordination toward proficiency in the state academic content standards, the project will develop an academically-oriented assessment of English language proficiency. Groups of teachers from each of the states are being recruited as members of item-writing committees for this assessment. Item writing will take place in the summer of 2003 over a three-day period, probably in Salt Lake City. If you would be interested in being a member of the Montana team, please contact Lynn Hinch at (406) 444-3482 or [lhinch@state.mt.us](mailto:lhinch@state.mt.us).

**For further information, contact:**  
**Judy Snow**  
**State Assessment Director**  
**Montana Office of Public Instruction**  
**PO Box 202501**  
**Helena, MT 59620-2501**  
**1-888-332-6171**  
**(406) 444-3656**  
**[jsnow@state.mt.us](mailto:jsnow@state.mt.us)**